



Nina Buty
Founder, Buty Winery

Since founding Buty Winery in 2000, Nina Buty has helped to define the vision for the winery's acclaimed blends, the philosophy that guides their creation and the aesthetic sensibility that informs every aspect of Buty. In addition to the big picture elements that have shaped the success of Buty, Nina has been responsible for establishing Buty's sales program, opening its Walla Walla tasting room, and building the Buty mailing list and Friends of the Beast Wine Club. Today, Nina oversees every aspect of the winery, working side-by-side with a handpicked team that includes acclaimed winemaker Chris Dowsett and legendary consulting winemaker Zelma Long. In the winery, she is instrumental in the evaluation of all wine lots, and the selection of the final blends. At the same time, Nina also oversees Buty's sales, marketing and public relations programs, with a focus on developing strong and lasting relationships with customers, trade partners, and the Walla Walla Valley community.

Nina was born in Seattle, Washington, and grew up in various parts of the state. She fell in love with the pace, climate and people of Eastern Washington early on, and attended Whitman College, where she earned a degree in art history, with minors in studio art and geology. Believing in the importance of public service, Nina worked for AmeriCorps as the assistant director of the Southeast Washington Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, and was later the director of the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program for Whatcom County.

In 2000, after two years of careful planning, Nina founded Buty Winery with Caleb Foster (who has since gone on to other ventures). For Nina, the creation of wine was a natural extension of her background in art and geology, allowing her to combine her desire to work with nature, with her creativity. Nina's vision for Buty was to produce exceptional wines, each one with a story and a purpose—wines that would showcase masterful blending, while being true to their Washington roots and the great vineyards the wines came from. Nina played a key role in developing the idea for all of Buty's wines, and continues to guide the Buty style during the evaluation and blending process for each new vintage.

Nina approaches life and making wine with a similar philosophy, and sees the two as deeply interwoven. "Buty is a small, family winery," says Nina. "My children play in the vineyards, and our growers and customers have become our friends. There is a wonderful flow and rhythm between life and work. With so few hard edges between the two, I try to be very aware of the interconnectedness of all the elements that contribute to Buty. All of the decisions that shape Buty are very intentional. Whether we are farming organically, creating wines using natural winemaking, or making decisions about pricing, we strive for balance and a sense of service and fairness." As part of her ongoing commitment to public service, Nina also helps to guide Buty's charitable endeavors, with an emphasis on programs that support healthcare, education, environmental issues and the arts.